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# contents

PathPointe Magazine

Volume 24, Issue 3

March 2023

- Page 2                    *A Pastor's Love*  
*Dr. T. D. Worthington*
- Page 6                    *Radio Bits*  
*Your Christian Superstations!*
- Page 8                    *Just A Little More Time*  
*Mrs. Sherry Worthington*
- Page 10                   *What Are You Worth To Heaven?*  
*Dr. Glenn Mills*
- Page 12                   *And Finally...*  
*My Namesake...*

President and Publisher: Dr. T. D. Worthington  
Editor: Tiffany W. Johnson  
Advertising Director: Ashley W. Lovett  
Contributors: Tiffany Johnson,  
Glenn Mills, and Sherry Worthington  
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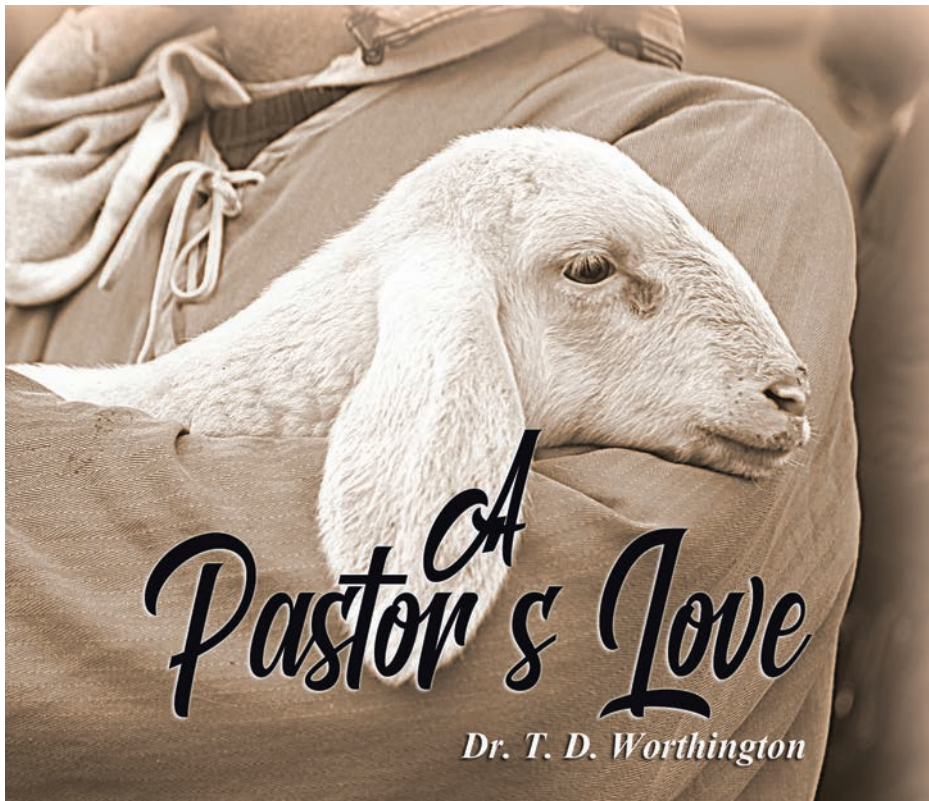
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*“And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.”*

**Jeremiah 3:15**

The Bible teaches us that as Christians, we have all been made partakers of the Divine nature. **(II Peter 1:4)** However, I also learn that He has given pastors a heart like His own. Not perfect like His, of course... but still very much like His.

God has given pastors a heart to love God’s people. What an awesome responsibility that is. A heart that is open, not just for compassion, but for empathy; a heart to care for people during trials and troubles in their lives; to be with people as they walk through the journey of losing a loved one at death; to be with the family who struggles financially to make ends meet; and to be gifted with a heart that is open to those who are seeking to follow Christ.

Far greater than preaching, and certainly preaching is the heart of every pastor, it is the love that radiates and permeates in the life of God’s servant. People will soon forget a sermon no matter how good it is, but they will never forget a pastor who has loved them and ministered to them especially during the difficult times in their lives.

Therefore, one of the best yard sticks for a pastor’s love for God, is to measure it against his love for God’s people. That’s what the Lord told Peter after Peter affirmed his love for Christ. The Lord said: **“feed my sheep” (John 21.16)**. So, how can a pastor love Christ? By loving the sheep, and members of his specific church in particular. I think a good pastor shows his love for the people in several ways.

**1. By preaching Christ to Them.** A steady diet of biblical truth—*the whole counsel of God*-- must come

from the pulpit. The pastor who loves his people will constantly analyze the needs of his people, and will ask the Holy Spirit to give him the message he needs to tirelessly point them away from themselves and this world to Christ Jesus. A pastor may build a huge ministry, but if he fails to faithfully preach the word, he is not doing the work God called him to do.

**2. By praying for them.** A pastor must give himself to the hard and holy duty of prayer. He must desperately plead the mercies of God, the power of the Spirit, and the illumination of the Word, not only for his own soul but also for each of his sheep individually.

**3. By caring for them.** The shepherd’s rod is used to bravely fight off the dangerous wolves, but it must also be used to tenderly give love, care, compassion, and guidance. Indeed, the pastor’s heart should be overflowing with affection for his people; even the rebellious ones. Oh, how a pastor longs for the maturity and growth of his people. Oh, how he longs to minister to your needs, speak to you the truth in love, encourage you in Christ, and constantly remind you of your union with our Lord. Oh yes, and to tell you of the future hope of the coming of Christ and your eternal glory with Him in heaven.

**4. By developing leaders within them.** The work must go on. So, it is a loving pastor who tries to replicate and replace himself. With an unwavering trust in God’s timing and sovereignty, he looks for faithful men who can carry on the work in his absence. A

wise pastor knows that the church will never rise above the spiritual maturity of the male leadership, so he gives himself to the training and shepherding of other men through instruction, example, and prayer.

**5. By modeling holiness among them.** A pastor understands the power of example. He has read and understands why the Apostle Paul urges the believers to imitate him and follow his example. A minister realizes that verbal instruction is one thing, but his holy conduct is just as vital. He cannot preach one thing in the pulpit and unpreach

what he has just said through his conduct. A shepherd says to the sheep: *“Follow me as I follow Christ.”* There must be a model of godliness and an example of the pursuit of Christ that the flock can find in their pastor. This above-reproach lifestyle is unquestionably necessary in every man of God.

Billy Graham once said, *“The most important characteristic of any pastor is a heart for God, a deep desire to live for Christ and to see others come to know him and serve him”*. I realize and recognize how blessed I am that God has chosen me to be one of His vessels.

Pastoring is more than a profession, it is a calling, and I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God has called me to this sacred task. I enjoy every moment of it, and am well aware that I cannot do it by myself. Thanks be unto God for choosing and using me. Thanks be unto God for the faithful people that I have pastored over the years. Quite often, they saw something in me that I did not see in myself. I would like to share with you a letter I have written to all the wonderful people I have pastored over the years. It is just a small attempt to express how privileged I have been to be your pastor.

## Here is a Letter Pastor Worthington Shared With His Church Regarding A Pastor’s Love For His People.

Dear Church,

This is a love letter. Not a letter of a sensual or romantic nature. But a love letter none-the-less. I speak as a Pastor deeply in love with the faithful members of my congregation. It has been your prayers and loyalty that has helped sustain me over the years; and yes, for some of us it has been years.

I am not the type of fellow that moves from church to church, so I have always figured we are pretty much stuck with each other. You were there when the young man that is still deep inside me was not covered with age spots, grey hair, and wrinkles. You may not know it, but you helped me grow. You see, even today every time I prepare a message, I always think of you. I wonder if the message will minister to you and meet your needs. I season it with prayer hoping that it might ease your burden, even a little. We’ve been together long enough to see each other’s weakness, yet Christ has still allowed our love to grow. Apparently, somewhere along the way we learned to forgive. When God put you in my life, neither one of us had any idea what was to come. The years have been good, at least most of the time.

Of course, you’ve also seen me go through some pretty deep valleys. You have helped to navigate through some of my toughest times, and most likely you didn’t even realize how priceless your support really was. You’ve seen me face the death of a loved one, betrayal, rejection, and a flood—or *two*. Yet, each time as I hung upon the cross I was called to bear, I looked out and you were there. You were there with my closest family. Indeed, you were there *as* my closest family. Your tears mingled with ours, and we were bonded together with the chains that are only forged in adversity. You have always been there for me, for my wife, and for my family. It has not gone unnoticed. Nor, will it ever be forgotten.

I always like to get to church early. I am sure you thought it was just a part of my compulsive need to be on time. However, your analysis is only partially correct. I get there so you might know how much I have longed to see you. I get there to experience the joy of seeing you walk in. There is something about you that just changes the atmosphere of the building. Your presence gives me a big part of my reason for being there. When you are not there, you are missed more than you might imagine. I know our fellowship is small so it is easy to tell when someone is away, but your absence goes deeper than that. I

*Continued on the Next Page*

am not sure I can explain it. Jesus loved the world, but the Scripture points out specifically that He loved Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. There must have been something about being near them that He found comforting. I find that comfort in you.

I cannot remember a time when you did not contribute to our work. As our ministry has grown, so has your involvement. Over time you have supported our church, our school, our college, our radio ministry, and our magazine. There are dozens of other projects that prospered under your generosity. You have unselfishly given of your time, treasure, and talents. I know God has given me a mandate to study, preach, minister and lead. But my service would not have been as effective if you had not accepted your mandate to attend, serve, and be involved. As I look at all God has allowed me to do, I see the benefit of your investment in each endeavor.

It is becoming apparent that one day I will no longer be able to be your Pastor. If our Lord tarries, age will continue to take its toll. Just remember, it was not always my faith in God that kept me going. Quite often, it was *your faith in me* that compelled me to take the next step. I loved you too much to disappoint you or let you down. Thank you for being a member of our church. Thank you for being my friend. Thank you for forgiving my failures. Thank you for being the one who didn't leave. Thank you for making me feel strong, courageous, and brave; even when I wasn't. Thank you for praying for me without ceasing. Thank you for constantly showing me that you were always there. Thank you for growing with me instead of away from me. Thank you for listening to my sermons, my counsel, and my jokes, although you could have easily received better from someone else. Thank you for lifting me up. And perhaps most remarkable, you did all this while bearing your own burdens, which at times were much heavier than my own.

One day, we shall enjoy eternity together. Perhaps then we will have time to reflect on the work our Lord has allowed us to do together here on earth. Oh, what a glorious moment to reflect over the years of memories while standing before the throne.

If there is anything I have learned in recent times, it is that acquaintances come and go. People change, and people often forsake you. Sometimes, without even giving it a second thought, we move away from each other and grow apart. However, a true friend is a treasure that should never be taken for granted. I hope you know how loved and appreciated you are, by me and by hundreds of others whose lives you have selflessly entered. I look at some people as friends, and some as family. But I look at you as a friend who became family.

Over the years, I have been richly blessed by those who from the time we met, until the time of their home-going, they were always there for me. They were faithful friends until the end of *their earthly lives*. Oh, how wonderful it was. But, in you I see something different. I see the blessing of having the same friend during almost every stage of my life. Although I can't see the end of the journey yet, it appears that now I have been blessed with a friend until the *end of my life*.

I am so grateful that you are a faithful member of the church I am privileged to pastor, but much more than this, you have given me the gift of a priceless and treasured friendship. My feelings cannot be expressed in a mere letter. Words seem to come up short. Yet, I pray in some small way I have conveyed how much you have contributed to my life. I needed you more than you will ever know in this life.

I don't know if our Lord will deem me worthy of any reward at the judgement, but should I be so blessed, I feel I should give my reward to *you* to lay at His feet. You see, I know who God really used to make it all possible, and it wasn't me.

Your grateful servant,

T. D. Worthington



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## *Share-A-Thon # 50 Is On The Way!*

Twenty-five years ago, we were still several weeks away from putting our first **GoMix** station on the air. **Eddie Mozingo** was busy visiting churches trying to drum up financial support, for a ministry that didn't even exist. Fortunately, many responded in faith and saw what could not be seen. I spent most of my time sending out letters, making personal appeals, and installing equipment.



Finally, our first station, **88.7 WAGO**, came on the air in July of 1998. Who would have guessed back then that today we would be operating ten stations, with number eleven on the way? Who would have guessed that today we would be asking you to help us by supporting our **50th Share-A-Thon**? My how time flies!

Our on-air drive for the **Spring Share-A-Thon** starts on **Monday, March 6th**. Please prayerfully consider standing with us as we share the message of Christ with a world that needs it so desperately.

For twenty-five years God has honored your faith. He

has given us the privilege of working together to bring hope and encouragement to those who need it most.

Thank you for your support.  
T. D. Worthington

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## Will You Answer The Call?

What if you had an emergency and called 911 for help, but were put on hold? Worse yet, what if it was just an automated recording that picked up placing you on hold? Believe it or not, it does happen from time to time, according to a news story by WCNC several years ago. The wait time might be brief, but in an emergency every second can be important.

Now, what if those we call upon for help do not take our needs seriously? The results could be devastating!

During our **Spring Share-A-Thon** which begins **March 6th**, we will be calling upon our listeners to help meet our financial needs. Our goal will once again be \$250,000. Won't you please prayerfully consider a generous gift to support **GoMix Christian Radio**? Using principles of good stewardship, we project this will meet the needs of our entire network of stations for the next six months. We are counting on you for support!

We realize many of you have been faithful with your support of this ministry time and time again, and for that we thank you. If you're already making plans to help once again, we thank you in advance and look forward to hearing from you.



**James Stanley Kirby**  
**03/23/1937 - 01/02/2023**

Brother James Kirby, a great friend of Pathway Ministries over the years, graduated to his Heavenly home on January 2nd. For years, he was tremendously supportive of our school program in Goldsboro. He was also one of the many saints that helped bring GoMix Christian Radio to our area. He did love Gospel music! Brother James always seemed to be there if you needed a hand. He helped with numerous benefit concerts, helped on the air multiple times during Share-A-Thons, and helped put ads on the radio that would help the ministry financially. He was also a long time Faith Partner.

James was a faithful servant of our Lord for many years. He had a gift for singing and loved to use it for the Glory of God. As some of you may remember, he was an original member of the Watchman Quartet, which started in 1975. He also sang with the Legacy Quartet for many years as well. He was a proud and faithful member of his home church, Pleasant Grove OFWBC in Pikeville, where he served as Worship Leader.

James Kirby no doubt loved the Lord with all his heart. Whether seeing him on stage at a Gospel concert, at his home church leading worship, or just running into him in town somewhere, he would remind you that God loves you too. He will definitely be missed here on earth; however, we look forward to a grand reunion with him when we all get to Heaven!

# Just A Little More Time

*Mrs. Sherry Worthington*



**W**hen I travel to work in the mornings, I see the most beautiful sunrises. God paints a different picture in the sky every dawn. The view in the mornings reminds me of how creative and wonderful my God is. This drive also takes me back to days gone by.

When our family rode to school in the mornings, my husband would tell the children that God had painted the sky just for him. This became a game in some ways because they would argue back with him that He had painted the sky for them. The youngest children especially enjoyed this contest.

God's Creation is so amazing. I now carry some of my grandchildren to school, and we also admire the beautiful sunset many mornings. One morning we will see bright pinks, and on another, we will see soft shades of blue and orange. Occasionally, we will see a sunrise that is so amazing that it takes our breath away. One such morning occurred last week. The clouds were so fluffy and white. The sun was shining brightly through the center with its rays shooting out in all directions. A clear soft blue spot was in the midst of the light. It is the way I picture the sky to have looked when the Lord ascended into Heaven to be with His Father after His resurrection.

As God's Creation often does, I began to feel so close to God. I began to ponder about my Heavenly Father. I thought, "What will the sky look like when Jesus returns?" I wonder if it might look the same way—bright lights shining around Him in every direction. It seems to

say, "Come home, My children." We don't know what that day will be like, but it will be glorious.

When I arrived at school that morning, my co-laborers and I were discussing Jesus' return while we waited for the bell to begin our school day. One of my friends said she was ready for Christ to return now. Heaven will be wonderful we both agreed.

Then I began to ponder again. What if it were today? Oh, there are many reasons I think it would be glorious. This world has become so corrupt and evil that it is hard to see a reason for the Lord to wait. I realize that according to Scripture there are no other events that are supposed to happen in order for the Lord to return. I am concerned about the world my precious grandchildren will grow up in. It breaks my heart to see what they must face. I hope we can teach them to be strong and shining lights for Jesus. I see that the persecution of Christians is becoming more and more prevalent, even in our once-considered free countries. In America, it is often illegal to give our opinions or to stand up for what we believe is right. We are considered terrorists in our own country. There are so many reasons I would like to see our Lord return today.

But reality hits very close to home. I teach the older children at our school. I looked around my classroom and wondered how many seats would be vacant and how many seats would still be occupied. I realized that many of my students may still be sitting in their chairs if the trumpet were to sound today. I became so convicted. Am I doing

enough to ensure that each of these students has the opportunity to know Jesus? We have devotions every morning but have I really done enough to be sure each one knows the way to Heaven? What would they do? Would they know what was happening if suddenly some of us disappeared?

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## ***Our purpose, as God's children, is to glorify the Lord and share the Gospel.***

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I then looked outside. What about my neighbors? What about the strangers on the street? What about my friends and family? What about the cashier at the grocery store? Am I sure they know Jesus? Are they ready if Christ would come today?

How can I be so selfish? Do we realize, as Christians, that if we do not share Jesus with the world that we are very selfish? How can we believe that the lost are dying and going to hell, yet we are not sharing Christ? Sometimes we get so busy doing good that we forget the main goal and reason we are here. Our purpose, as God's children, is to glorify the Lord and share the Gospel.

Yes, Lord, come quickly! But, please give me just a little more time.



*Mrs. Worthington has five children and twelve grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro*



## What Are You Worth To Heaven?

*Dr. Glenn Mills*

***“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”***

**Matthew 16:26**

Jesus said a lot about worldly possessions and the dangers that often come with them. Our value to this broken world is most always looked at in a monetary way. Basically, the world judges us by what we have materially, such as the kind of job someone has and how much that job pays. Then, there is the size of house they live in and the community where it is located. And don't even try to tell me people think the same about someone who drives a Dodge Dart verses someone driving a new Chevy Corvette.

There is also the wardrobe. Who can keep up with the ever-changing styles and fads? Yet billions are spent each year by people doing just that. Maybe I'm old school, but I still can't bring myself to pay a hundred dollars for a pair of blue jeans with holes in them. I'm not judging someone who does, mind you, I'm just saying I can't. A lot of young people feel their lives are void if they can't wear a certain brand of clothes. Some schools have started requiring students to wear uniforms because it takes away the “fad pressure” and allows students to focus on why they are at school; to get an education.

What about the “toys”? Forget the fact that not many years ago we didn't have cell phones, now people stand in lines for long periods of time to get the newest model. Our lives are filled with so much technology that we have somehow lost ourselves. If we enter a dead zone, it doesn't take long for our blood pressure to rise.

Many people fill every moment of the day being entertained by all these gadgets. We are judged often by the brand and amount of gadgets, toys, devices, and technology we own. Jesus told us in **Luke 12:15**, ***“... Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.”***

So maybe we seem to be rich by the world's standard, but what about Heaven's standard? What are we worth as far as God is concerned? Material things and fleshly desires of this world are temporary. (**I John 2:17**) No matter how much we accumulate on this planet, we cannot take it with us when we depart. As the old saying goes, *“You never see a hearse with a U-Haul behind it.”*

While men are watching us, so is God. While God can truly and abundantly bless us, His main focus is on our spiritual being and behavior. After all, that is what will last forever.

There are valuable lessons to be learned from the stories of the rich young ruler (**Mark 10**), the rich farmer (**Luke 12**), and the rich man and Lazarus (**Luke 16**). In each case, the problem was not wealth, but how it was used and how it controlled these men.

The Bible plainly says it is not money that is evil, but the love of it. It is what we do spiritually that lasts long after we are gone. Jesus said our lives should be summed up in one verse.

*“And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.”*

**Luke 10:27**

Every part of that Scripture is spiritual. The way we live and give is what Heaven is taking note of, my beloved.

What are we worth to Heaven? How much do we pray, praise, worship, give thanks, serve, read the Bible, witness, help someone in need, and live like Jesus? These are just a few of the things that are of great value to God. Please don't misunderstand me. We could never earn our salvation or repay God for all He does. But, because we love Him, we should be bearing spiritual fruit and carrying on the work of His Kingdom.

Is our focus on the things of this world or on the things of God? Who wants to stand before God empty handed? From this moment on, where will you invest your time and resources? If God is your main focus, then keep pressing forward giving Him



all the honor and praise. Allow the Holy Spirit to help you evaluate your life to see what improvements can be made. He invites us to change our value from worldly things to heavenly things where we are truly rich.



*Dr. Glenn Mills is a long time supporter of GoMix Christian Radio and a full-time Evangelist with the Glenn Mills Ministries. [www.glennmillsministries.com](http://www.glennmillsministries.com)*

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# And Finally...



## My Namesake...

*I was named Wilma after my mother. When it came time for me to start fourth grade, I ended up spending half of my day in what they called, The Coat Room. As the teacher called out my name loud and clear that day, the little boy behind me shouted, “Wilma, where is Fred at? Fred Flintstone?” I gave him a knuckle sandwich right on the nose and that was my ticket to The Coat Room. After the nurse was finished with him, he apologized and I forgave him. I feel so honored to have her name. My mama was a strong Christian woman. A lot of people called her a Proverbs Woman. I have seen this woman pray for people standing in a grocery line. People would call her on the phone and ask for prayer. She went home to live with God on 03/07/22. I couldn't go to her funeral because I had Covid, but I did have the honor of writing the eulogy for her. It was read by her preacher. I thank God for choosing me to walk the path of life with her.*

**W. T.**

*I love my name. My first name, Catherine, is after my mom's oldest sister who died at the age of 3. My mom never even knew her. My middle name, Helen, is after my mom's mother who died before my parents were even married. My mom is my best friend and I feel so honored to be named after two people that she loved so dearly.*

**C. L.**

*I was named after my great-granddad. I vaguely remember him. He passed away when I was a young child. I was told he was a preacher of a small country church. He never had a lot of money to his name, but would always lend a helping hand to those in need. I've seen a few pictures of him and have possession of his family Bible. I'm looking forward to seeing him and talking with him one day in Heaven.*

**F. G.**

## “Mother’s Day”

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of “And Finally...”

Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us about your mom. The deadline for submission is

March 31st, 2023.

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Donald A. Ribeiro, MD      David Baker, MD  
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A group of five diverse people (three women and two men) are shown from the chest up, all smiling and giving a thumbs-up gesture. They are wearing colorful clothing: white, orange, blue, and yellow. The background is a plain, light color.

*Together*

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